

BIG HIT TO BUSINESS

Dart: Expand limits in county

Health official calls for other communities to close venues, limit restaurants and bars

By Kevin Canfield
and Kelsy Schlotthauer
Tulsa World

Tulsa Health Department Director Bruce Dart has sent a letter to all jurisdictions in Tulsa County encouraging them to follow Tulsa's lead in restricting restaurant and bar services and closing entertainment venues.



Dart

"The measure is one of many being implemented to combat COVID19 and stop the chain of transmission of this virus," Dart wrote. "Tulsa Health Department fully supports the mayor's actions and recommends the implementation of similar measures in other jurisdictions to ensure the health and safety of our residents."

In an interview with the Tulsa World, Dart compared the effort to suppress the disease to World War II.

"It's coming together for the cause," he said. "I know how tough this is ... but if we don't break the

» See Department, page A5

COVID-19 CONFIRMED CASES, DEATHS

The novel coronavirus COVID-19 has been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization. The number of confirmed cases and deaths can change minute by minute. The figures below will be updated daily.

TULSA COUNTY	UNITED STATES
Positive cases: 4	Positive cases: 7,750
Deaths: 0	Deaths: 138
OKLAHOMA	WORLDWIDE
Positive cases: 31	Positive cases: 217,000
Deaths: 0	Deaths: 8,700

As of 10 p.m. March 18

Sources: World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Oklahoma State Department of Health, Tulsa Health Department, Associated Press

'Blazing Hot Bingo' on hiatus through April

FROM STAFF REPORTS

With the current threat of COVID-19, the Tulsa World has restricted access to personnel only at its main office, 315 S. Boulder Ave.

Due to this action, we are unable to continue our popular "Blazing Hot Bingo" games at this time. Effective immediately, the Tulsa World is canceling the bingo game through the end of April.

We will not have a drawing for winners in March and April.

We will review the continuation of the game, depending on the COVID-19 threat in mid-April and consider bringing back bingo in May.

No bingo numbers will be published starting Thursday through April 30.

Thank you for your patience during these trying times.



Rosie Remington drops off a food order to a customer at Lassalle's New Orleans Deli in downtown Tulsa. IAN MAULE/Tulsa World

Restaurants scramble to adapt to restrictions

By Scott Cherry
Tulsa World



Standing in an empty Torchys restaurant, Demi Burk takes to-go orders from customers on Wednesday. Restaurants and bars can continue takeout and curbside food service. JOHN CLANTON/Tulsa World

The big red fire truck pulled up outside Lassalle's New Orleans Deli a little after noon Wednesday, and Capt. Tim Nelson was checking his phone for an update on his order.

Nelson had put in an order for the crew at Fire Station 10 at 508 E. Pine St. He didn't request curbside service, but he and driver Patrick Young did remain in the truck until the order was ready.

"Sometimes we get too busy to cook at the station, and we go pick up some food," Nelson said. "This time we wanted to support a local restaurant, and we placed the order on the Lassalle's app."

Since Mayor G.T. Bynum closed all bars, restaurants and entertainment venues indefinitely Tuesday because of the COVID-19 threat, restaurants have been scrambling to make plans.

» See Food, page A3

State low on virus test kits

Those on hand are being reserved for the most vulnerable

By Barbara Hoberock
Tulsa World

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma is low on testing supplies to detect COVID-19 and is reserving tests for the most vulnerable, Gov. Kevin Stitt said Wednesday.

"The state is going to have to reserve until further notice tests for only vulnerable populations, those experi-



Stitt

encing severe symptoms," Stitt said.

The governor and health care professionals held a Capitol news conference Wednesday

to discuss the spread of COVID-19 and efforts to slow it.

Earlier in the day, the state Department of Health reported 12 new cases, including the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in a toddler in Oklahoma, and Steve Buck,

president and executive director of Care Providers of Oklahoma, said the state now has its first confirmed case related to a nursing home resident.

The state's total for confirmed cases stood at 31.

Tulsa Health Department officials reported one new case in Tulsa County, bringing the total COVID-19 cases here to four.

State Epidemiologist Laurence Burned said that as of Wednesday morning, the Health Department had

» See Stitt, page A5

MORE COVERAGE

WORK&MONEY

- Woodland Hills Mall closes. **A9**
- Stocks take a dive **A9**

NATION

- Automakers shut down. **A4**
- U.S.-Canada border closes **A4**

INTERNATIONAL

- Italy death toll spikes. **A4**
- Only one new China case found. **A4**

LOCAL

- Lankford dispels doubts. **A6**
- Admiral Twin to stay open. **A7**
- Iron Gate busy but careful. **A11**
- Routine dental work to stop. **A11**

SPORTS

- Sooners postpone spring game. **B1**

AT TULSAWORLD.COM

Find the latest updates online.

Trump taps emergency powers for outbreak

Senate OKs aid bill, president signs it; Inhofe, Lankford vote no

By Jonathan Lemire
and Jill Colvin
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Describing himself as a "wartime president" fighting an invisible enemy, President Donald Trump on Wednesday invoked rarely used emergency powers to marshal critical medical supplies against the coronavirus pandemic while the Senate ap-

proved an aid package that will guarantee sick leave to workers who fall ill.

Trump tapped his authority under the 70-year-old Defense Production Act to give the government more power to steer production by private companies and try to overcome shortages in masks, ventilators and other supplies.

Yet he seemed to minimize the urgency of the decision, later tweeting that he "only signed the Defense Production Act to combat the Chinese Virus should we need

» See Trump, page A5



President Donald Trump listens to a question during Wednesday's press briefing with the coronavirus task force. EVAN VUCCI/Associated Press

INDEX

Ask Amy	A14	Editorial	A10
Comics	A15	KenKen	A14
Crosswords	A14	Obituaries	A12

Stocks	A8
Sudoku	A15
Work & money	A9

MORE PUZZLES INSIDE

Additional puzzles can be found in the Sports section in today's World.

LOTTERY

Pick 3: 7-1-8 | Cash 5: 16-22-25-28-32
Powerball: 15-27-44-59-63 **8** x4 (\$130 million)
Lotto America: 6-16-24-34-45 **2** x5 (\$8.7 million)

Daily - \$2.00



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